WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus comprising:

a generation unit for generating a print image to be printed on an area larger than an effective area of paper; and

a printing unit for printing the print image generated by the generation unit and larger than the effective area of the paper;

wherein the generation unit, based on an allocation number representing the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper, clips the pages to generate the print image to be printed on the area larger than the effective area of the paper, the print image having a combination of the clipped pages.

2. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generation unit generates a print image by subjecting the pages to zoom processing according to the allocation number.

3. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clipping performed by the generation unit executes processing on print data allocated to the effective area of the paper including its boundary and different processing on print data allocated to other areas of the paper.

4. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the allocation number is positive integers one for each of x and y directions of the paper.

5. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the allocation number is allocation numbers one for each of x and y directions of the paper and is calculated for each of the x and y directions based on a particular value of the allocation number and on x- and y-direction sizes of the paper.

6. A printing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the printing unit can print a print image that is output with at least one side of the paper taken as an arbitrary size, and the generation unit specifies to the printing unit a size of one side of the paper based on the allocation number, positive integers for the x and y directions, and outputs the print image to the printing unit.

7. A printing apparatus according to claims 1, wherein the allocation number is a number specified by a specifying unit which specifies the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper.

8. A printing apparatus according to claims 1,

wherein the generation unit clips a portion of a particular page overrunning a particular area, one of areas produced by dividing the effective area of the paper based on the allocation number, in such a manner that a positional relationship of the particular page allocated to and larger in size than the particular area with respect to the particular area is identical to a positional relationship of the particular page allocated to and larger in size than the effective area of the paper with respect to the effective area of the paper.

9. A printing method comprising:

a generation step of generating a print image to be printed on an area larger than an effective area of paper; and

a printing step of causing a printing unit to print the print image generated by the generation step and larger than the effective area of the paper;

wherein the generation step, based on an allocation number representing the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper, clips the pages to generate the print image to be printed on the area larger than the effective area of the paper, the print image having a combination of the clipped pages.

10. A printing method according to claim 9,

wherein the generation step generates a print image by subjecting the pages to zoom processing according to the allocation number.

11. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein the clipping performed by the generation step executes processing on print data allocated to the effective area of the paper including its boundary and different processing on print data allocated to other areas of the paper.

12. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein the allocation number is positive integers one for each of x and y directions of the paper.

13. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein the allocation number is allocation numbers one for each of x and y directions of the paper and is calculated for each of the x and y directions based on a particular value of the allocation number and on x- and y-direction sizes of the paper.

14. A printing method according to claim 12, wherein the printing step can print a print image that is output with at least one side of the paper taken as an arbitrary size, and the generation step specifies a size of one side of the paper based on the allocation

number, positive integers for the x and y directions, and generates the print image.

15. A printing method according to claims 9, wherein in the generation step, the allocation number is a number specified by a specifying unit which specifies the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper.

16. A printing method according to claims 9, wherein the generation step clips a portion of a particular page overrunning a particular area, one of areas produced by dividing the effective area of the paper based on the allocation number, in such a manner that a positional relationship of the particular page allocated to and larger in size than the particular area with respect to the particular area is identical to a positional relationship of the particular page allocated to and larger in size than the effective area of the paper with respect to the effective area of the paper.

17. A computer program product for executing a printing method, the printing method comprising:

a generation step of generating a print image to be printed on an area larger than an effective area of paper; and

a step of outputting to a printing unit the print image generated by the generation step and larger than the effective area of the paper;

wherein the generation step, based on an allocation number representing the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper, clips the pages to generate the print image to be printed on the area larger than the effective area of the paper, the print image having a combination of the clipped pages.

18. A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the generation step generates a print image by subjecting the pages to zoom processing according to the allocation number.

19. A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the clipping performed by the generation step executes processing on print data allocated to the effective area of the paper including its boundary and different processing on print data allocated to other areas of the paper.

20. A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the allocation number is positive integers one for each of x and y directions of the paper.

21. A computer program product according to claim

17, wherein the allocation number is allocation numbers one for each of x and y directions of the paper and is calculated for each of the x and y directions based on a particular value of the allocation number and on x- and y-direction sizes of the paper.

22. A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the printing step can print a print image that is output with at least one side of the paper taken as an arbitrary size, and the generation step specifies a size of one side of the paper based on the allocation number, positive integers for the x and y directions, and generates the print image.

23. A computer program product according to claims 17, wherein in the generation step, the allocation number is a number specified by a specifying unit which specifies the number of pages to be allocated to one sheet of paper.

24. A computer program product according to claims 17, wherein the generation step clips a portion of a particular page overrunning a particular area, one of areas produced by dividing the effective area of the paper based on the allocation number, in such a manner that a positional relationship of the particular page

allocated to and larger in size than the particular area with respect to the particular area is identical to a positional relationship of the particular page allocated to and larger in size than the effective area of the paper with respect to the effective area of the paper.